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DISCUSSES PROBLEMS OF CADRE RECTIFICATION IN HUNAN

The cadre-rectification program in Hunan has revealed a number of weaknesses of the cadres, one of the more outstanding being a tendency toward bureaucratism which is attributed to lack of leadership and understanding of the true aims of the rectification program. Failure to keep in close touch with the masses, particularly by the lower-ranking cadres, and the placing of emphasis on trivial matters and not on vital issues are other criticisms.

Cadre rectification in Hunan was begun in May 1950, but had to be postponed until July so that cadres could help the peasants with drought problems. It was continued during the autumn levy of grain. Some of the problems encountered in the cadre-rectification program in Hunan are as follows:

There is a tendency toward bureaucratism, which results in a perfunctory reform of the cadres, without real change in their thinking and elevation of their political consciousness. Cadres are confused as to the true aim of rectification. They do not carry through a full examination of their work by means of criticism and self-criticism. This is because leadership is lacking. On the other hand, the leadership, fearing that matters may get out of hand, are inclined to hold down discussion in the lower ranks so that attention is focused on trifles and nothing is really accomplished.

The object of rectification is to send cadres back to their work with renewed enthusiasm and faith, especially the lower ranks, whose culture and political levels are limited. It is not sufficient for them to understand what is meant by the bureaucratic temper and authoritarian state of mind; they must know how to keep in touch with the masses under actual conditions.

In some places, having failed to grasp the true spirit of rectification, the leadership has devoted time to historical and political questions instead of attending to the matters at hand. For example, during the rectification in Shao-yang, four comrades were arrested on the grounds that they were in a dispute which might involve "political problems." To arrest without due cause, on a mere "possibility" during a routine study of work, is not right. It brings bad results and should be corrected.

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Full observance of policy and avoidance of the evils mentioned above is not to be expected all at once, for it depends on continual improvement in character of the cadres. Among lower cadres, in the newly liberated areas, education is particularly lacking and this is one cause of the above-mentioned evils.

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